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An **Ethical Board of Review** (also known as an **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**, **Independent Ethics Committee (IEC)**, or **Research Ethics Board (REB)**) plays a critical role in ensuring ethical research involving human subjects. Let's explore its purpose and functions:

1. **Purpose and Responsibilities**:
   - The IRB ensures that research projects involving human participants adhere to ethical standards.
   - Its primary goal is to protect study participants from harm (or minimize harm while maximizing research benefits).
   - IRBs review research protocols, assess the ethics of the proposed methods, and promote fully informed and voluntary participation.
2. **Scope of IRB Review**:
   - IRBs are commonly used for studies in health and social sciences, including fields like anthropology, sociology, and psychology.
   - Examples include clinical trials of new drugs, studies on personal behavior, opinions, attitudes, and research related to healthcare delivery.
3. **Historical Context**:
   - The need for formal review procedures arose in response to research abuses in the 20th century.
   - Notable abuses include Nazi experiments, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and human radiation experiments during the Cold War.
   - The National Research Act of 1974 and the Belmont Report established ethical principles for human subjects review.
4. **Key Ethical Principles**:
   - **Respect for Persons**: Treating individuals with autonomy and ensuring informed consent.
   - **Beneficence**: Maximizing benefits while minimizing risks.
   - **Justice**: Fair distribution of research burdens and benefits.

Remember, IRBs play a crucial role in safeguarding research participants and upholding ethical conduct in scientific studies. □□

For more information, you can explore the Wikipedia page on Institutional Review Boards [1].

Source(s)

1. Institutional review board - Wikipedia
2. Board of Ethical Review - National Society of Professional Engineers
3. Improving the process of research ethics review | Research Integrity ...
4. How to Set Up an Ethics Advisory Board - Harvard Business Review